

A Corporate Publication of Santee Cooper

POWERSOURCE

Summer 2011



From the CEO

As you turn the pages of this summer issue of PowerSource, you'll see news about new renewable energy sources that Santee Cooper is tapping for electricity. After almost 10 years in the Green Power business, Santee Cooper now has 187 megawatts online or under contract, and I am proud of the people who are working hard to make these deals happen at a benefit to our customers.

Diversity in our generating fleet is important, and renewable energy is one place we're working to increase our commitment. So, to, is nuclear power – the only baseload source of electricity that is emissions-free. And Santee Cooper remains on target for adding new nuclear power to our generation mix as early as 2016.

The earthquake and tsunami that gave rise to Japan's ongoing nuclear crisis have prompted numerous discussions as America continues working to add nuclear capacity after three decades of stagnancy in that energy sector. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is actively incorporating lessons from the Japanese disaster into its ongoing reviews of existing nuclear power plants here and of those on the drawing board. That added oversight is welcome and appropriate, and it should renew confidence in the U.S.'s strong safety record in nuclear power plant operations.

Meanwhile, Santee Cooper and our nuclear partner, SCE&G, continue to fulfill obligations toward licensing two new reactors at our existing V.C. Summer Nuclear Station near Columbia, which are scheduled to come online in 2016 and 2019. We are gratified by the support our president, Congress and regulators continue to voice for new nuclear construction.

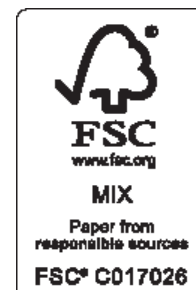


Santee Cooper has signed a letter of intent with Orlando Utilities Commission to explore a possible sale of up to 10 percent of our share of the new units' capacity, and those negotiations continue. We are also looking at other potential sales that would help us bring these important new generating units online now, at the best possible price, without unduly burdening our customers with the cost of power that they don't fully need yet.

Generating fleet diversity is important in the electricity business. So, to, is flexibility. Santee Cooper is pursuing diversity with flexibility to ensure we always act in our customers' best interests. Emissions-free, safe and long-term low-cost nuclear power will be key as we continue to work to bring South Carolina affordable, reliable and environmentally responsible power.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lonnie N. Carter".

Lonnie N. Carter
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Summer 2011— Vol. 11, No. 3

PowerSource is published by Santee

Cooper Corporate Communications.

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Swirly Bulbs Shining Brightly

By Willard Strong

Photography by Jim Huff

Energy Savings,
Positive Impact on
Environment
Can't Be Denied

CFLs use about 75 percent less energy than incandescents

Sometimes it's tough to be green, and this year's public pushback on compact fluorescent light bulbs, or CFLs, may be a perfect example.

Earlier this year at the federal and state level, including South Carolina, a few lawmakers and their constituents embraced the idea to "save" the incandescent light bulb from the ash heap of lighting history. Even for the well-intentioned, it is likely a lost cause.

Even so, news accounts in America and in Europe (where a ban will go in effect) have stories of people actually hoarding incandescents. Here and abroad, there have been reports of activity akin to a run on the "light bulb bank," stores where incandescents are sold, with people stocking up like milk and bread after a hurricane warning.

So, what's really going on? Because of a bipartisan energy bill passed by Congress and signed by President Bush in 2007, new bulbs will soon have to meet higher energy efficiency standards, regardless of type. If not, they're history and cannot be manufactured.



The intent is sound, if you're interested in sending less of your hard-earned money to the power company.

In a nutshell, Thomas Edison's light bulb, patented in 1880, hasn't changed all that much in the 131 years since. About 90 percent of the electricity travels through the bulb's light-producing filament, and actually produces heat, not light.

Country folks without the benefit of "city water" know this. Savvy "rural engineering" calls for placing an incandescent inside an enclosed or even non-enclosed pumphouse on cold, wintry nights. The light bulb's ubiquitous heat effectively keeps pipes on a water pump from bursting during extremely low temperatures.

But beyond that, why should consumers continue to cling to these energy-hogging dinosaurs? For example:

CFLs use about 75 percent less energy than incandescents

CFLs last up to 10 times longer than incandescents

People naturally prefer choices over mandates in just about every situation. But if an electric consumer objectively examines all the facts surrounding CFLs, they will almost certainly choose CFLs because they save money on lighting costs over the long run and help the environment by reducing the demand for electricity.

A United Nations report released earlier this year found that if the U.S. replaced all incandescent light bulbs with energy-efficient CFLs, it would annually:

- Save the country's electric ratepayers, businesses and industry approximately \$9 billion
- Avoid carbon dioxide emissions from the equivalency of 11 million midsize cars

The phase-out of incandescents is occurring in about 40 countries, including the United States. A major objection to CFLs has been the “glow,” that it doesn’t provide the “warm” light of incandescents. Evolving CFL technology, including those that reach full brightness quicker, has solved the “glow” concern.

The glow of light bulbs is measured using a temperature scale known as Kelvin. A lower Kelvin number means that the light is more “yellow.” A higher Kelvin number means the light bulb is whiter or bluer. For example, the typical incandescent has a Kelvin rating of about 2,700K to 3,000K, while CFLs can go all the way from 2,700K to 6,500K.

In other words, there are CFLs that glow like Edison bulbs and others that glow like the familiar fluorescents found in offices and other commercial settings. The two leading home-improvement retailers offer 18 brands of CFLs and nearly 200 products.

“I think if they do a little research, consumers at home and those in the business community can find a CFL that meets their needs,” says Patrick Howle, Santee Cooper’s supervisor of commercial energy services.

“Prices of CFLs continue to fall, and we at Santee Cooper have done our part, in distributing over 1 million free CFLs to customers since 2008 as part of our Reduce the Use program.

“The price of CFLs has come down and the quality has gone up,” Howle continues. “A lot of the shortcomings in the first generation of CFLs have been solved, such as rapid start and the ‘glow.’”

Santee Cooper’s Sherry Coleman helped administer the distribution of CFLs that Santee Cooper made available at its retail offices. “Our customers were so surprised that we were giving them 12 free CFLs each,” says Coleman, now an energy adviser who concentrates on Santee Cooper’s commercial customers. “They were so appreciative that they were able to save energy and energy costs right away.”

By replacing just 15 incandescents with CFLs, the typical savings are about \$50 annually, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.



This CFL floodlight is equivalent to a 90-watt incandescent model and draws just 26 watts, a considerable savings.

CFLs last up to 10 times longer than incandescents

CFLs contain a tiny amount of mercury, and so they must be disposed of properly when they do burn out. Recycling programs are beginning to pop up to address this need, and at least one major big box, home-improvement retailer accepts burned-out CFLs for proper disposal. Consumers should always follow disposal directions found on CFL packaging.

Santee Cooper is also involved in a light recycling program, announced in April. The utility is partnering with Waste Management's LampTracker program and Hagemeyer North America to offer recycling of fluorescent lamps for Horry County-area businesses, contractors and residents. As a way to get people interested in the recycling initiative, it is offered free of charge for a limited time.

Nearly all components of a fluorescent bulb can be recycled and made into new products. At Waste Management's LampTracker facility, located in Williamston, S.C., more than 18 million bulbs nationwide were processed in 2010 and upwards of 30 million bulbs are expected to be processed this year. And so in addition to solving a potential disposal problem with CFLs and fluorescent tubes, the recycling program also supports South Carolina's economy.

Perhaps the "final frontier" of lighting is light-emitting diode, or LED light bulbs,

which feature even more energy efficiency and are making their way into mainstream retailers, although an individual bulb costs six times more than a CFL bulb today. LEDs are mercury-free and last up to 25 times longer than incandescents, saving up to \$200 in energy costs – which more than makes up for the initial purchase price.

Still, Santee Cooper's Howle says, "The market is not quite ready yet for widespread use of LEDs," primarily because of that sticker shock.

Santee Cooper is now focusing on spreading the benefits of CFLs beyond the individual residential customer to commercial entities, and the hotels and motels along the Grand Strand are a particular target.

The commercial response has been very positive, says Coleman. "Our customers are interested in 'going greener' while at the same time saving money." **PS**

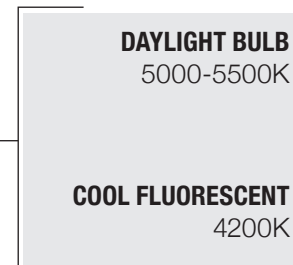


Sold for low-level lighting applications, this uniquely shaped LED light bulb draws less than 1 watt. Rated to last up to 20,000 hours, it can be used 24 hours a day for an entire year for less than one dollar in energy costs, based on the national average of 12 cents per kilowatt-hour.

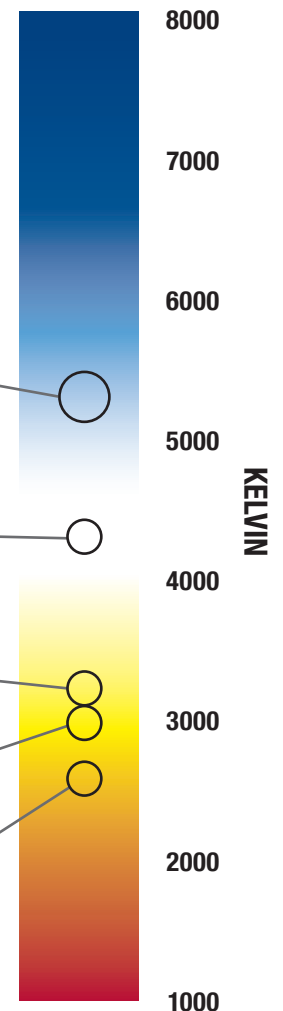
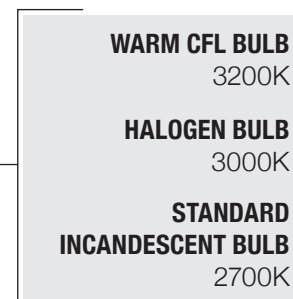
WHAT'S YOUR TEMPERATURE

A consumer can easily overcome a typical turn-off common to early CFL bulbs by simply find the most pleasing “glow.” This is done by determining a bulb’s “temperature,” expressed in its Kelvin rating.

BEST FOR WORKING AREAS SUCH AS KITCHENS OR STUDIOS

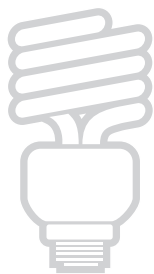


BEST FOR LIVING ROOMS, BEDROOMS AND BATHROOMS



CFL TYPES

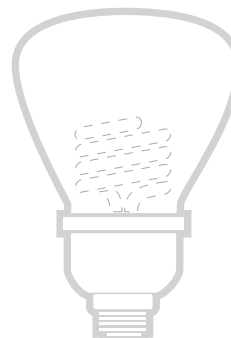
Shapes for Typical Applications



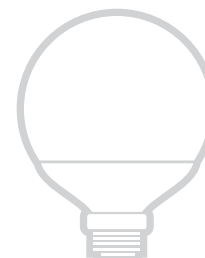
SWIRLY BULB



CEILING FAN



FLOOD



VANITY



Santee Cooper Lineworkers' Rodeo

By Nicole A. Aiello

Photography by Les Stringer

As he looks up into a cloud-filled sky, he feels the weight of the safety harness around his hips and stomps the dust off of his boots. Adrenaline is high as he gets ready to dig his spurs into the utility pole while his teammates are strategizing on last-minute details. He's given the cue to begin and he starts the 40-ft. climb up the pole, focusing only on the task at hand. He's been fully trained for the day's work – it's his day job, after all – this time he gets to show off his skills for a new audience.

From atop the utility pole, looking down at his family, friends and coworkers, he's proud to be a member of a fraternity of men and women known as lineworkers.

This is just one of the scenes that took place at the 14th annual Santee Cooper Lineworkers' Rodeo at the Old Santee Canal Park in Moncks Corner. On April 16, after months of preparation and practice, 51 participants from Santee Cooper and five electric cooperatives – Berkeley Electric Cooperative, Coastal Electric Cooperative, Fairfield Electric Cooperative, Horry Electric Cooperative and York Electric Cooperative – gathered for a day of competition.

*Corralling
talent,
safety and
friendships*

Clockwise from top left

The 14th annual Santee Cooper Lineworkers' Rodeo took place on the grounds of the Old Santee Canal Park in Moncks Corner. More than 50 line technicians from Santee Cooper and five electric cooperatives took place in the competition this spring.

Gary Wright, line technician B in Transmission for Santee Cooper, uses an extension stick to change out a fuse barrel during the obstacle course event.

Competing in the Apprentice division, a lineworker for Horry Electric Cooperative works on a switch near the top of a 40-ft. utility pole.

Families are a big part of what makes the rodeo successful. Children waste no time getting in on the fun by cheering on their dads or moms, participating in their own competitions and trying on kid-sized gear like hard hats.



The rodeo featured five events in each of two divisions. Apprentices, competitors with up to four years of line experience, represented their companies as individuals in a written test and in four skills' competitions: the hurtman rescue, knot tying, phase and neutral tie in, and the obstacle course. The Journeyman division, in which three lineworkers compete together as a team, included the hurtman rescue, knot tying, double cross arm construction, single phase transformer change out and 12kV pole top pin change out competitions.

To a novice, the Lineworkers' Rodeo can seem intimidating. Tim Whigham, a line technician with Berkeley Electric Cooperative, entered his first rodeo in 2010 and knows what it's like to be a rookie.

"Last year was my first year competing. I was nervous and didn't really know lineworkers from other companies," Whigham said. "Because of the rodeo, I learned a lot about teamwork and about the bond between lineworkers."

During this year's rodeo, Whigham said he had more fun and, like many returning competitors, he developed better working skills and more friendships at the rodeo.

Santee Cooper's Brian Grover competes in the hurtman rescue, an event that showcases skill and quick thinking. Grover earned third place overall in the Apprentice division at the rodeo.



Top: The Lineworkers' Rodeo promoted fellowship among all participants. Santee Cooper Line Technicians Brian Grover and Seth Hughes chat with Santee Cooper's Senior Safety Specialist Susan Mungo about the day's competition.

Drew Jordan, Chad Williams and Joe Sawyer compete in the double cross arm construction event. This talented Santee Cooper team earned the overall first place trophy in the Journeyman division for display of skill, quick timing and attention to safety.

As Whigham alluded, there's more to the rodeo than winning. And although there was a real sense of competition among participants vying for the coveted first-place trophies, Neil James, manager of Distribution Operations for Santee Cooper, agrees that the rodeo is about much more than bragging rights.

"While the men and women who participate in the Lineworkers' Rodeo compete to win, there is also a real emphasis on safety and learning safe work practices from other competitors," James said.

Along with the importance of safety, which James said was the catalyst for Santee Cooper starting the rodeo 14 years ago, competitors get a chance to meet and mingle.

"Participants get to know line technicians from other companies. They're making lifelong friends and applauding each other's skills," said James. "And while we celebrate our lineworkers' talents and expertise by giving out trophies and awards, the real reward during the rodeo is the trust and fellowship that forms between line technicians."

John Villeponteaux, manager of operations at Berkeley Electric Cooperative, agrees.

"The rodeo is the perfect place for our crews to get to know crews from Santee Cooper

John Gligor, Santee Cooper line technician B, makes his way through the knot tying competition, one of five events in the Apprentice division. Gligor took home the overall first place title in his division.

and the other electric cooperatives,” said Villeponteaux. “There’s a camaraderie that develops at the rodeo that is essential to our business.”

Ben Fleming, Santee Cooper’s manager of Transmission Operations, knows firsthand that establishing trust and confidence among employees and between companies is crucial.

“The rodeo gives everyone a chance to get to know each other in a less stressful setting,” said Fleming. “And it’s the friendship and trust built between crews at the rodeo that is critical when we work together during emergencies. If we don’t have that trust, the consequences could be life-altering.”

Just this past January, Santee Cooper line technicians put that confidence into action while assisting Berkeley Electric Cooperative lineworkers during an ice storm. It was hazardous work in a setting where safety and trust are the highest priorities.

A family affair

Safety, trust and camaraderie are vital on the job. However, support and understanding are essential at home. Santee Cooper’s Lineworkers’ Rodeo has become a place where spouses and children can see firsthand what their husbands, wives and fathers do on a daily basis.

Like many spouses, Kristina Sawyer, wife of Santee Cooper line technician Joe Sawyer, supports her husband by bringing their two children to the rodeo.

“Every year, we look forward to watching Joe compete,” Kristina said. “Our daughter is definitely daddy’s little girl. She follows him around and cheers for him the whole day.”





Kristina said she also thinks it's important that her children see what their father does for a living.

"It prompts a bunch of questions. It's much easier to explain what daddy does when he's at work when the kids see him compete at the rodeo," she said.

Coastal Electric Cooperative Operations Superintendent Steve Blake said the importance of family participation runs even deeper.

Blake said lineworkers are on call every day of the year and when family members understand the work their husbands, fathers, wives or brothers are doing, families can deal better with unexpected calls in the middle of the night or during a storm.

"Families sacrifice a lot, and many times crews get called in the middle of the night," Blake said. "There's a lot of stress that goes along with



the radio calls and phone calls during emergencies, and it's important to have family support during those times."

At the end of the rodeo, participants, families, volunteers and organizers gathered together under the main tent. Lineworkers put on ball caps and flip flops while waiting for the awards to start. As the winners were announced, there were smiles, handshakes and hugs. They clapped, shouted their congratulations and slapped each other on the backs.

It was fellowship at its finest.

Left: A Berkeley Electric Cooperative lineworker has a bird's eye view of the Old Santee Canal Park while competing in the phase and neutral tie-in event in the Apprentice division.

Right: The Santee Cooper Lineworkers' Rodeo is a family affair with activities and an obstacle course for children. Many lineworkers come from families where their fathers, mothers or grandfathers were line technicians, and many times the Lineworkers' Rodeo is the first place children get to see line work firsthand.

Santee Cooper's **Steve Faw** Inducted into Hall of Fame

By Nicole A. Aiello

Photography by Jim Huff



Santee Cooper's Lineworkers' Rodeo is one of many such events across the country. Winners from each rodeo get the chance to compete in the American Public Power Association's (APPA) International Lineworkers' Rodeo, which took place this year in March in Nashville.

Along with event awards, a select few honorees are inducted each year into the APPA International Lineman's Museum Hall of Fame. At this year's ceremony, Santee Cooper Line Technician Steve Faw received the honor, marking the first time a Santee Cooper employee has earned that distinction.

"When I heard about it, I didn't feel worthy. I was a bit hesitant because I know a lot of good linemen, especially at Santee Cooper," Faw said. "It's a very big honor. It's very humbling."

Scott Windham, Transmission Operations supervisor, wrote the nomination letter recommending Faw's inclusion into the Hall of Fame.

"I know of no one more deserving of this honor than Steve. He has been a great mentor and role model to many of us in the organization," Windham said. "It's an honor not just for Steve, but for Santee Cooper as well. We are all very proud of him."

The International Lineman's Museum Hall of Fame pays tribute to lineworkers who continually exceed in the call of duty and exemplify those qualities that establish the true nature of the brotherhood of electrical linemen. As a new inductee into the Hall of Fame, Faw will

have his name engraved on an 8-foot, black granite monument on the International Lineman's Museum Walk of Fame in Shelby, N.C. Faw also received a plaque, which he has on a stand in his house.

Back when Faw started line work after graduating high school, he thought he was just getting a short-term job. He said he was surprised to find out it was something he loved to do.

"I got up on the pole and knew it was for me. I fell in love with it," Faw said. "I was just looking for a job and I found a career. Well, maybe the career found me."

Faw worked for Santee Cooper from 1972-1974. He did a short stint working with contractors and returned to Santee Cooper in 1976, where he spent a majority of his time as a Transmission crew supervisor in Darlington.

During his tenure with the company, Faw has had an outstanding safety record, earning Santee Cooper's highest safety honor 19 times.

He actually retired two years ago, although his love of the job called him back only nine months later.

Today, 42 years after he first climbed his first pole, Faw continues to excel as a Santee Cooper Transmission line technician.

"I still love what I do," Faw said. **PS**



MYRTLE BEACH'S NEW BOARDWALK:

BOON FOR BEACHFRONT BUSINESSES NEW AND OLD

BY MOLLIE GORE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JIM HUFF





M

Myrtle Beach attracts tourists from all over, and so the arrival in April 2010 of Charlotte entrepreneur Rick Sarver wasn't unusual in any way. Sarver, who had just sold three coffeehouses back home and was on vacation, walked across the just-opened Myrtle Beach Boardwalk and looked out over the beach.

"Have you seen the dolphins?" asked Russ Stalvey, who walked up behind Sarver and pointed out to the Atlantic Ocean. The strangers struck up a conversation as Sarver marveled at the half-dozen dolphins at play.

Several days later, Sarver and his wife went home and did something distinctly unusual: they packed up their belongings and moved to Myrtle Beach. By Memorial Day, they were serving their first lattes with an ocean view, under their new Boardwalk Coffee House shingle.

In addition to being a friendly dolphin spotter, Stalvey also owned the building that sheltered Oceanfront Bar & Grill, on the corner of the Atlantic Ocean and 9th Avenue. Stalvey's grandfather opened the restaurant in 1948, and for many decades it called the Grand Strand's legendary Myrtle Beach Pavilion its neighbor.

Stalvey suggested that the neighborhood could use a good coffee shop, showed Sarver a storage area behind his restaurant – the only available space in the building – and after ascertaining there was electricity and a front door Sarver drew up a business plan.

"I was in the right place at the right time," Sarver said. "This found us, literally."

Outdoors rules on the boardwalk, where umbrellas invite sidewalk dining and the newly renovated 2nd Avenue Pier invites a range of activity. At bottom, Rick Sarver and his wife welcome customers to their new Boardwalk Coffeehouse, which opened about a year ago.





From the venerable Gay Dolphin to the brand-new SkyWheel, the boardwalk offers a range of sights and sounds.

Myrtle Beach's Pavilion was shuttered and torn down in 2006, leaving a literal and figurative void in the heart of the resort town. With change comes opportunity, of course, and Myrtle Beach leaders had already been planning for a rebirth – a heart transplant, if you will. The Myrtle Beach City Council and Downtown Redevelopment Corp. began working with planners and architects as early as 2000 on transforming the several blocks around the Pavilion, and already in 2005 had opened Plyler Park. Named for the proprietor of the venerable Gay Dolphin Gift Cove beside it, the block-wide Plyler Park features nightly entertainment throughout the summer and benches and green space for everyone the rest of the time.

Next on the drawing board: an oceanfront boardwalk stretching "from pier to pier" that would become a Myrtle Beach icon and catalyst for private investment all along its path. The attractive, 1.2-





Top: Kori Brett McKeithan and David Sebok with the Downtown Redevelopment Corp., visit Plyler Park to finalize details for that evening's kickoff to the city's Hot Summer Nights outdoor concert series. From June through August, the Boardwalk hosts entertainment and activities virtually every evening.

Bottom: Barrett Herzer, left, and Brenda Shearon say business is good at Iggy's Ice Cream as the Boardwalk opens up for the 2011 summer season.



In addition to exceeding its pier boundaries, the boardwalk is exceeding expectations since opening last year too. It brought Sarver and his coffeehouse to town, along with a new Dirty Don's Oyster Bar and Grill. The new Dirty Don's and the old Oceanfront Grill - and several other oceanfront restaurants - have invested in outdoor furniture and set up sidewalk dining, adding immeasurably to the ambience of the strip. The 2nd Avenue Pier owners added a new restaurant, tackle shop, public restrooms and open-air bar with fireplace to their property, and they have plans to add brand new buildings across Ocean Boulevard with retail and other commercial space for rent.

Most visibly, perhaps, the largest Ferris Wheel east of the Mississippi opened to great fanfare on May 15, and two days later hosted its first wedding as proof of its instant landmark status. The Skywheel claims to be the first observation wheel of its kind in the United States, is 187 feet tall and features 42 glass-enclosed, climate-controlled gondolas with comfortable seating. A VIP gondola includes additional amenities.

mile pedestrian span is widest at its center and illuminated with 150 energy-efficient and "turtle-friendly" street lights from Santee Cooper's Heritage Lighting Collection. The boardwalk actually overruns the 14th Avenue Pier to the north and 2nd Avenue Pier at its south by a little at each end, according to Kori Brett McKeithan, executive assistant of the Downtown Redevelopment Corp. that built the boardwalk.

Adjacent to the Skywheel, yacht rocker Jimmy Buffett has also just placed his flagship Landshark Bar and Grill, serving up cheeseburgers in paradise and a cold draft beer.

"The boardwalk was really the clincher in their decision to come to Myrtle Beach," McKeithan said of the two new attractions. "We're on the right track. This first year is certainly an impressive year, and excites us for what will come in the future."

David Sebok, executive director of the Downtown Redevelopment Corp., agreed. "Business is good," he



said as he surveyed Plyler Park’s setup for the opening of Hot Summer Nights, the summer concert series. “These kinds of things are all a result of the boardwalk.”

As you would expect from a young, hip venture, the Skywheel has a Facebook page filled with fan photos and fun facts. “Did you know there are about 400,000 pounds of steel in the SkyWheel, more than

COMMENTS FROM THE SKYWHEEL’S FACEBOOK PAGE

“Can’t wait to ride it Saturday... hope my 2 yr old doesn’t get scared!!”

“I rode it with my 10 year old on Saturday and had a blast. We loved it.”

“It’s beautiful!! Love it!!”

The SkyWheel features an electronic light show every night this summer, which is one of the many things visitors have enjoyed about the new attraction—the largest of its kind east of the Mississippi.



800 different types of bolts and pins, and more than 1000 yards of concrete in the foundation for the SkyWheel alone?!!??” the owner posted.

There’s also a nightly lights show that takes place via the computerized LED lights along the spokes of the Skywheel. Fans have posted videos on You Tube, showcasing a high-tech extravaganza that apparently has delighted many already.

As Sebok talked, Lyn and Tom Ferraiolo walked up and down the stretch beside the Skywheel. Tom had his camera in hand, snapping away as the wheel rotated and offered its riders birds-eye views of the Grand Strand from inside the gondolas.

“He’s taken 50 million pictures of it,” said Lyn, adding that they’d already ridden it once. “It’s nice and smooth. It’s an easy ride. It’s air conditioned!”

Top: Lyn Ferraiolo visits Myrtle Beach several times a year from her Atlanta home. She and her husband, Tom, have watched the Boardwalk take shape and bring on new ventures over the past year.

Bottom: Late morning sees the crowds starting to pick up along the Boardwalk, which offers shops, an arcade, sidewalk and open-air dining and more.

The Atlanta couple had been tracking construction of the Skywheel all year, and had visited Myrtle Beach already in April to view its progress.

“It’s spectacular,” Tom proclaimed. “I’ve been following this on the web, on YouTube. We’re going to the movies, and then coming back tonight for the show.” They planned to watch the fireworks show that night from inside a Skywheel gondola.



The Ferraiolos visit Myrtle Beach several times a year, and she praised the city for steady progress in transforming the area. “They’ve added something every year. First the park, then palm trees, the boardwalk and now this.”

Down the block, Paula Giovanetti and Andrea Aukamp enjoyed cold drinks outside Dirty Don’s, choosing a sunny table despite the already-warm afternoon temperature. It was their first trip to Myrtle Beach. “Chicago is cold, and we heard there’s a great beach here,” Giovanetti said. “We’re enjoying the sun, and just the ability to walk, people watch and dine outside.”

Andrea Aukamp (middle) and Paula Giovanetti of Chicago catch an early lunch at Dirty Don's Oyster Bar & Grill. From fireworks several nights a week to morning oceanfront brunches and a birds-eye view of it all, the Boardwalk sizzles with summer fun.

Like Salyer at the Oceanfront Grill, Seth Gibson is also a third-generation businessman along the oceanfront strip. His grandmother was involved in local hotels, and his great-aunt built the 2nd Avenue Pier. Now he and his cousins, Pier owners Teak and Trent Collins, have significantly expanded the property and Gibson has signed on to manage the new 120-seat restaurant that juts out to the edge of the ocean there. The restaurant opened in July 2010. "Business is good," he said, noting that this spring was especially strong. Other business owners say their sales are up 20 percent or more from a year ago, with McKeithan reporting 2010 was the best year ever for the area.

Gibson says the excitement is building as more and more new private investment moves in to join those who have called the area home for decades. He and his cousins grew up playing along the pier, and they are looking forward to passing down those experiences to their own young children now.

Stalvey has spent a lifetime on the strip too. "You know something really good is happening when you see this kind of investment," he said, pointing down the wide, rambling boardwalk to the Skywheel. "It's nice down here. My personal opinion is, I think it's better than when the Pavilion was here." **PS**





EXPLORING THE OLD SANTEE CANAL PARK

By Kevin F. Langston Photography by Jim Huff

“In the early days of this nation, as settlers from South Carolina moved inland from the coast, it was essential that they get their agricultural products, principally cotton and indigo, to Charleston, S.C., for export, since there were no manufacturing plants in the young country. Roads were practically nonexistent, and the best method of transportation was by rivers in the Santee River system. However, boats small enough to navigate the tributaries and on the Santee River were often lost on the open sea voyage from the mouth of the Santee to Charleston. Of necessity, our forefathers determined that something had to be done to prevent the loss of cargoes and often the lives of those transporting the fruit of a year’s hard earned labor via the Santee River to Charleston.”

— Excerpt from “Professor F.A. Porcher’s History of the Santee Canal”



Ten years after Americans declared their independence from the British Empire, a charter was granted for the construction of the Santee Canal, the nation's first. Among the directors of "the Incorporated Company for opening the inland navigation between the Santee and Cooper rivers" were its president, Gen. William Moultrie; its vice president, John Rutledge; Gen. Francis Marion, Gen. Charles Pinckney, Gen. Thomas Sumter, and additional historical heavyweights with surnames like Drayton, Rutledge, Huger, Laurens and Gaillard.

Construction began in 1793 and was completed in 1800 at a cost of \$650,667. The Santee Canal was 22 miles long with three locks to lift boats from the Santee River to the summit level and seven locks for the descent of the boats to the Cooper River. Droughts and increased competition from railroads prompted shareholders to revoke its charter in 1850.

In 1934, the Santee Canal was the inspiration behind the creation of the South Carolina Public Service Authority, more commonly known as Santee Cooper. Building upon the canal's initial purpose of improving inland navigation, the Santee Cooper Power and Navigation Project electrified rural South Carolina and created lakes Marion and Moultrie, the state's largest natural resource.

Today, most of the Santee Canal lies beneath Lake Moultrie, but visible portions remain where boats entered from the Santee River and at Biggin Creek, where it joined the headwaters of the Cooper River. This junction is also where you'll find the Old Santee Canal Park.

Opened in 1989, the 195-acre park commemorates the area's rich history and habitat. It was originally operated by the S.C.



The park's Interpretive Center is home to exhibits that chronicle the area's history from as far back as 4000 B.C., including the 19th-century construction of the Santee Canal and the C.S.S. David.

Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism, and Santee Cooper assumed management in 1999. Park Director Troy Diel has overseen its day-to-day operation since 2007.

Diel calls the Old Santee Canal Park "a well-kept secret" and says he gets visitors from the area who'll confess they weren't even aware of its presence.

The park has become a popular destination for bird watchers, hikers, paddlers and other outdoor enthusiasts.

“The Lowcountry is a historically rich area, and we’re still a relatively new attraction,” he says. “Increasing our presence has been a priority from the beginning, because this park has a lot to offer.”

Among its attractions are the Stony Landing House, built in 1843, and four miles of boardwalks that meander through the quiet backwaters of Biggin Creek and its surrounding swamp. The park’s centerpiece is its Interpretive Center that chronicles the area’s history as far back as 4000 B.C., including the 1863 construction of the CSS David, a semisubmersible Confederate torpedo boat used in the Civil War. The Berkeley Museum is also located within the park’s gates.

Beyond its historical offerings, the park has become a popular destination for bird watchers, hikers, paddlers and other outdoor enthusiasts.

“The historical significance of this area is entwined with its natural significance,” says Mary Bell, the park’s historical education coordinator. “It’s our job to tell that story.”

Troy Diel, Park Director



Mary Bell, Historical Education Coordinator





Top: The Stony Landing House (c. 1843) overlooks the Cooper River.

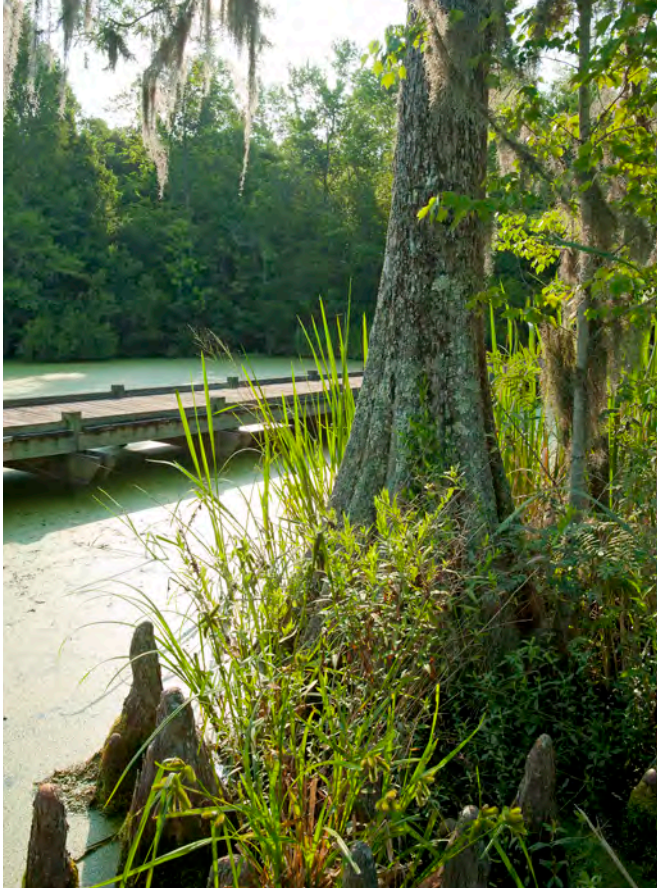
Bottom: Brad Sale, Environmental Education Coordinator



Bell's counterpart is Brad Sale, the park's environmental education coordinator. Educational programs at the park deal with the wide range of historical events that took place on or around Stony Landing Plantation, such as children's life, archaeology and canal history. Environmental programs emphasize the vast diversity of plant and animal life found throughout the park. Topics include insects, reptiles, trees and wetlands. All programs meet the state curriculum standards, and all but a handful can be taken from the park to the classroom.

"With the economy putting a strain on teachers' budgets, we developed these outreach programs," Sale says. "Now the schools can come to us or we can go to them."

Sale says he and Bell would rather the students come to the park, "but we'll go to them rather than miss the opportunity



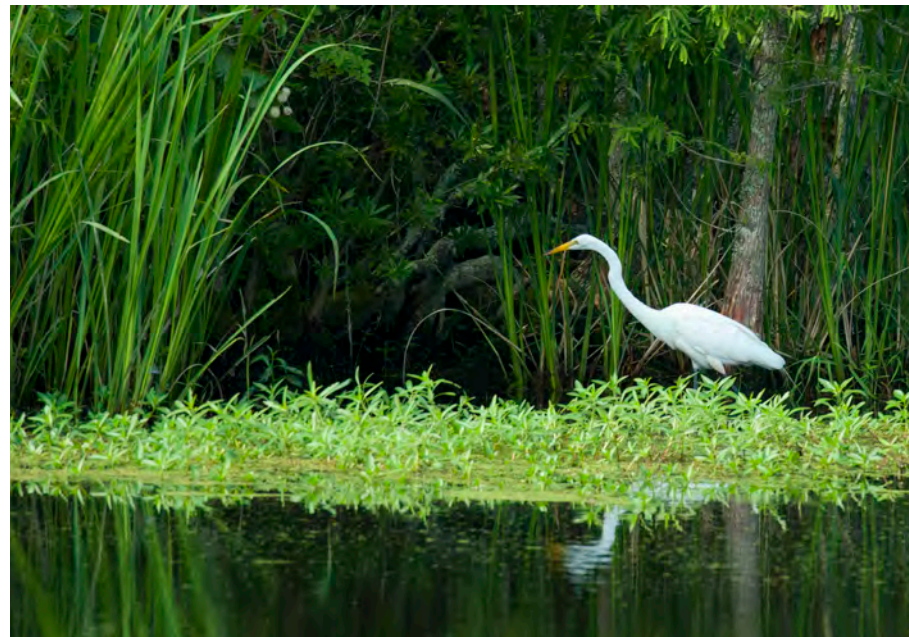
Four miles of boardwalks allow visitors to immerse themselves in the quietly vibrant habitat of Biggin Creek and its surrounding swamp.

to teach them about this place. It's one thing for me to bring a snake into their classroom and another to take the students into the swamp."

As the park's history buff, Bell says it's especially tricky to take its history on the road.

"We're glad to have these outreach programs, but it's no comparison to coming here and seeing the Stony Landing House and seeing the Cooper River and seeing America's first canal."

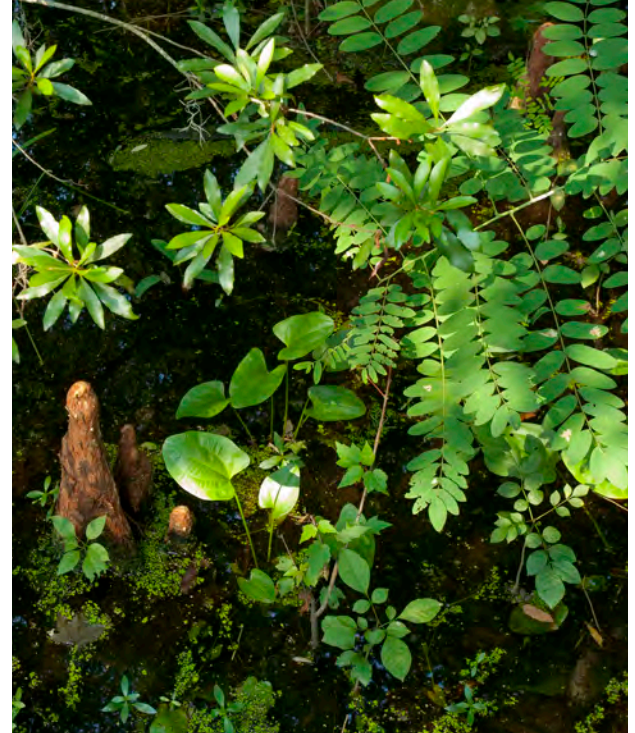
Bell and Sale also coordinate weekend programs and summer camps, and the park offers programming for pre-school children. In recent years, the park has also become popular among an unexpected clientele: wedding planners.



"We've almost doubled our wedding business since I became park director," Diel says. "We're already booking 2012."

Diel credits the rising popularity of outdoor weddings and the park's plantation setting for its successful wedding business.

Various civic groups have also found the park's Learning Center and the Interpretive Center's recently completed conference room



The park also offers canoe rentals for visitors who want to further explore the backwaters of Biggin Creek and the Old Santee Canal.

to be ideal settings for conducting meetings in a picturesque environment. The park grounds host a growing number of public festivals and shows.

“We’ve become the hub of Berkeley County,” Diel says. “There aren’t a lot of public facilities in the area with our accommodations or our programs.”

Public park events include the Shuckin’ in the Park Oyster Festival, the Pickin’ in the Park Bluegrass Festival, the Antique Tractor and Engine Show, and the 4th of July Celebration.

New to the park’s annual calendar is the Celebrate the Season holiday event. Held the first time in December 2010, Diel says they expected about 500 people. “We had closer to 3,000 show up,” he says. “I was extremely surprised. We all were. It was overwhelming. We weren’t quite ready for that kind

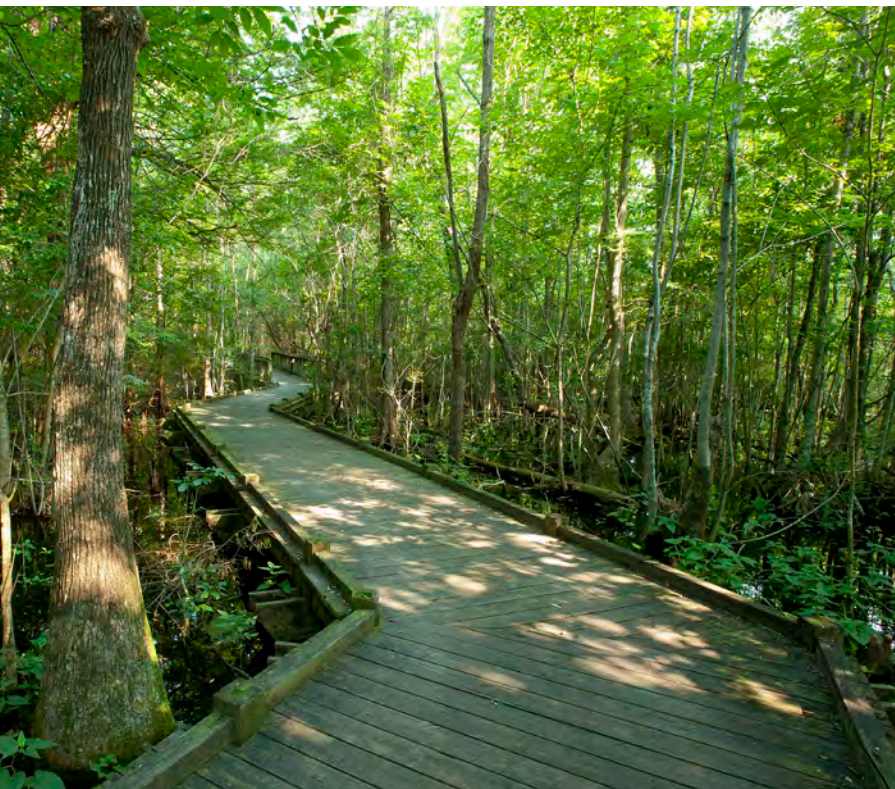
of response, but it all worked out. Everybody did their job well, and at the end of the day we were relieved to have pulled it off. It was a good day.”

That “good day” will grow this year into a month-long series of holiday events and programs that will feature an impressive collection of holiday lighting displays. The event will kick off at Thanksgiving and will also feature entertainment, marshmallow roasting and children’s activities throughout the weekends in December.

“Usually, when you plant a seed, you’ll get a shrub,” Diel says. “We planted the seed last year and got the whole tree.”

The success of Celebrate the Season speaks to the Old Santee Canal Park’s growing role as a place for the communities of Berkeley County to come together, and Diel is excited about the future of the park’s community outreach programs.

Plans for the park’s future include developing more interactive exhibits, including a virtual tour of the park that can be played using an mp3 device, and building on the park’s new Facebook page.



IF YOU GO

Address: 900 Stony Landing Road
Moncks Corner, SC

Phone: 843-899-5200

Email: parkinfo@santeecooper.com

Website: www.oldsanteecanalpark.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/oldsanteecanalpark

Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission: \$3 (\$2 for seniors, children 6 and younger free)

Sale says the Facebook page has gotten a great response. “What I love is when people share the photos they took here and ask, you know, ‘What kind of snake is this?’ or ‘What kind of bird is this?’ It’s a great way to interact.”

“The approach evolves, but the story stays the same,” Bell says. “They were talking about the Santee Canal even before the Revolutionary War. The Santee River drains two-thirds of South Carolina. It’s the great river, and Charleston is the great harbor. They had to be connected, and this is where it happened.”

“I absolutely love the merger of history and nature,” Sale says. “I can be looking at a Prothonotary Warbler and realize I’m canoeing on the first canal built in America. It’s a tiny area that has so much to offer.”

“I get a kick out of meeting people from all over and sharing the history, the culture and the nature of Berkeley County,” Diel says. “Credit goes to Santee Cooper for recognizing the significance of this area from the very beginning. Their support has been tremendous.” **PS**

Nuclear power negotiations

Santee Cooper, which joined with SCE&G and filed an application in 2008 to build two new nuclear reactors at the V.C. Summer Nuclear Generating Station in Jenkinsville, S.C., announced in March it has signed a letter of intent to negotiate a purchase power agreement with Orlando Utilities Commission (OUC) for a portion of its share of the planned new nuclear project.

Santee Cooper owns 45 percent of the V.C. Summer expansion, and SCE&G owns 55 percent. In 2010, Santee Cooper began evaluating its level of ownership in the new nuclear facilities, a review that continues and has been disclosed with rating agencies and other key stakeholders. V.C. Summer units 2 and 3 are projected to come online in 2016 and 2019.

The letter of intent with OUC is for 5-10 percent of the capacity and output from Santee Cooper's interest in the two new units. The letter of intent also includes as part of the potential transaction an option for OUC's future acquisition of a portion of Santee Cooper's ownership interest.

Renewable energy portfolio grows

The Santee Cooper Board of Directors approved contracts in May with W2E-Organic Power and BioEnergy Technologies for a total 3.2 megawatts of electricity generated from anaerobic digestion of renewable resources. That is enough electricity to power 1,600 homes.

W2E-Organic Power, based in Columbia, has received its state environmental permit and plans to build a 1.6-MW generating station in Columbia that will utilize biogas from food waste, grease and yard waste. W2E-Organic Power plans to transmit the electricity to Santee Cooper's transmission grid.

Sumter-based BioEnergy Technologies will utilize pre-consumer food waste, grease, food processing waste and wastewater sludge to generate 1.6 MWs of renewable electricity at a facility planned for Berkeley County. BioEnergy Technologies will deliver the electricity to Santee Cooper through Berkeley Electric Cooperative's distribution system.

"Santee Cooper is pleased to announce these contracts with South Carolina businesses, which will generate home-grown and renewable electricity for our customers," said Marc Tye, the utility's senior vice president of customer service. "Santee Cooper continues to look for practical projects like these as part of our balanced plan to meet South Carolina's energy needs with electricity that is reliable, affordable and environmentally protective."

Grand Strand Solar Station dedicated

Santee Cooper and the South Carolina Energy Office celebrated Earth Day by dedicating the Grand Strand Solar Station, officially launching the state's largest solar power installation and the newest facility in Santee Cooper's renewable Green Power generating fleet.



The Grand Strand Solar Station has a rated capacity of 311 kilowatts generated by 1,325 solar panels. The panels are mounted on rooftops and an adjacent field at Santee Cooper's warehouse facilities on Mr. Joe White Avenue (10th Avenue North) in Myrtle Beach.

The station significantly increases Santee Cooper's solar generation and represents a 35 percent increase in total solar capacity for South Carolina.

The \$1.3-million project is unique because of its size, and also because of its funding. Solar power is more expensive than traditional generation, and Santee Cooper secured a \$475,000 grant administered by the South Carolina Energy Office to pay part of the cost; the grant

was funded through the U.S. Department of Energy as part of 2009's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Santee Cooper Green Power revenues, provided by customers who voluntarily purchase Santee Cooper Green Power, provided another \$500,000, with the balance coming from the utility's capital budget.

Website helps fight mosquitoes

Santee Cooper leaseholders and others can now visit a website to learn how to combat mosquitoes and to view the utility's schedule for mosquito spraying around lakes Moultrie and Marion.

Leaseholders and property owners can also request free property inspections and site-specific spraying at the website, www.santeecooper.com/mosquitocontrol. The site features information about Santee Cooper's vector management initiatives, links to additional information and an online form that guides Santee Cooper in preparing to combat the pesky insects. **PS**

Energy Matters



www.santeecooper.com/energymatters

Get plugged in.